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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal and dependable Creator, who harmonized the world with seasons and climates, sowing and reaping, color and fragrance, we praise You for sustaining us on this pilgrimage called life. Today, illumine the path of our lawmakers so that they will relinquish any motives that are contrary to Your will. Lord, strengthen them to do their part to serve You and country with faithfulness and integrity. Let Your peace radiate on wings of faith, hope, and love in their hearts this day and always.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of

Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1940.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1940, a bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, to restore the financial solvency of the flood insurance fund, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, there will be 2 hours equally divided and controlled, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

The hour that is under the control of the majority has been given and I ask unanimous consent now that Senator KERRY be recognized for the hour we have allotted to us.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. That will be a full hour to Senator KERRY and a full hour to the Republicans.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

Last night, we reached an agreement to complete action on the farm bill. As a result, there will be several rollcall votes beginning at 2:15 p.m. today.

Everyone who has amendments here should understand, if you know the result of your amendment—it is pretty easy to figure out most of them because Senators STABENOW and ROBERTS will tell almost everyone how the vote is going to wind up—we should be able to dispose of a lot of these by voice vote. I hope so. Otherwise, people can look to some very long nights the next night or two.

We will also begin debate today on the joint resolution of disapproval regarding the EPA's mercury and air toxics standards. That will also occur during today's session.

THE DREAM ACT

Mr. President, Republicans in Congress are fond of complaining that this country's immigration system is broken. We have heard it for months and months, going into years. But they are less interested in working with Democrats to fix this problem they say is broken. We have tried. They are totally opposed to our doing anything. We have tried, but we just get a handful of Republican votes.

No one I know disagrees that our immigration system needs repair. It certainly does. But every time we as Democrats offer to work together on comprehensive immigration reform, Republicans find an excuse to fight sensible change.

And every time Democrats propose bipartisan legislation to provide a pathway to citizenship for children brought here illegally through no fault of their own, Republicans have found an excuse to oppose our practical reforms.

There is no better illustration of Republicans' hypocrisy than their phony outrage this past weekend.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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